

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Scheler et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,450,648) in view of Pierrot et al (Journal Article "Coupling of diazonium compounds with 2-methylbenzothiazoles").

Independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, and R⁹ each independently represent one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, and an acyl group. The cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a compound within the scope of formula (1) as recited in amended claim 1. Claims 2-20 depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 1 and are distinguished for at least the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

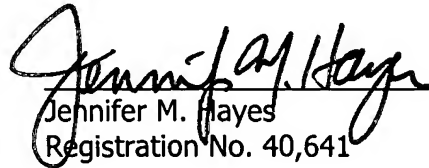
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
Appln. No. 10/690,779

Atty. Docket No. Q78106

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer M. Hayes
Registration No. 40,641

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 27, 2006